



**Minutes of the  
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
May 13, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:	Ruth Belikove, President Mike Hartigan, Vice President Gail Wetzork, Board Member
Absent:	Karen Butter, Board Member Alan Mitchell, Board Member
Staff:	Jane Chisaki, Library Director Marsha Merrick, Recording Secretary

CONSENT CALENDAR

An asterisk indicates items so accepted or approved on the Consent Calendar.

- A. \*Report from the Library Director Highlighting Activities for the Month of May 2009. Accepted.
- B. \*Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of March 11, 2009. Approved.
- C. \*Library Services Reports for the Months of February and March 2009. Accepted.
- D. \*Financial Report Reflecting FY09 Expenditures by Fund for March and April 2009. Accepted.
- E. \*Bills for Ratification for the Months of March and April 2009. Approved.

There were no questions or comments from the Board, so President Belikove asked for a motion to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. Vice President Hartigan so moved; Member Wetzork seconded the motion which carried by a 3-0 vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

There were no comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Neighborhood Library Improvement Project (G. Wetzork)

Christopher Noll and Alyson Yarus of Noll & Tam were in attendance at the Board meeting to give input and answer any questions the Board might have. Director Chisaki said the NLIP team had met the previous Wednesday to go over scope of work. Cost estimates had come in much lower than expected, so it looks like everything on the list will be done. Member Wetzork praised Noll & Tam for their work in keeping costs under the budgeted amount.

Director Chisaki went over the proposed improvements for each branch, and asked the Board if they had a preference on which branch would go first. Chisaki had met with Member Butter the previous week; she had been pleased with the direction the NLIP team was taking, and was in favor of having the Bay Farm Island branch renovated first. After more discussion, Member Wetzork made a motion to accept the recommendations from the NLIP team for the final scope of work, and to accept the recommendation that the Bay Farm Island branch be the first renovation done. Member Hartigan seconded the motion which carried by a 3-0 vote.

Marc Lambert asked where the \$100,000 the Friends had pledged towards the renovation effort would be used. Director Chisaki said that it may go towards art for the branches. President Belikove said the Art Exhibit Committee would like to be in on selection of the branch art.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Art Exhibit Committee (R. Belikove)

President Belikove said the Art Exhibit Committee is hugely successful, with shows scheduled through March 2010. Comic book artist Eric Larsen has his work up now, and will be doing a demonstration in conjunction with his reception on May 20th. The Committee is building their publicity list and trying to contact more organizations that may be interested. Vice President Hartigan mentioned how great the Wood Museum of History was this year, as the kids had really done a fantastic job. The next exhibit will be by Multi-Cultural Center artists.

B. Alameda Free Library Foundation (A. Mitchell)

Director Chisaki said the Foundation's executive board met last month, and the full Board will have their next meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>; it is expected they will vote on naming the Children's Programming Room after Jane Felker. The Foundation will be hosting the June Chamber Mixer on Wednesday, June 10. The Board will receive invitations to this event.

C. Friends of the Alameda Free Library (M. Lambert)

Marc Lambert said they were nearing a critical situation with the Café. Many of the volunteers who had regular shifts have moved on to other things and it has been hard to fill their slots. Lambert encouraged everyone to be on the lookout for people who might want to get involved.

D. Patron suggestions/comments (Speak-Outs) and Library Director's response.

Please enable the time on the computer internet terminals, not to show how much time is remaining in a session, but the actual time clock. In order to show the clock, other items would also be revealed, but we are currently investigating another way to do this, time permitting.

Please fix the computer system; 12 minutes without movement is very painful, and you can't get anything done. We have reached reliable speeds with our internet service provider, and apologize for the unhappy experience. In the future, please ask for assistance with your problem, and staff may be able to troubleshoot it.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Vice President Hartigan asked about the consumer product regulations regarding lead in children's books. Chisaki explained that books printed before 1985 are being removed and boxed while awaiting a final decision on what will be done. In relation to a comment by President Belikove on a library that was lending prom dresses, Hartigan remarked that he had read about a bike lending library as well.

Hartigan then asked Director Chisaki to talk a little about the current budget situation. Chisaki noted that over the past three years, the Library has cut about 21% from its budget, so will not be asked to cut more in the next fiscal year. Current staff will be retained, but there will be no part-time pay increases granted. President Belikove inquired whether the Foundation or Friends might be willing to provide a monthly stipend to help relieve the staffing burden. Chisaki indicated these organization's monies are not meant for that type of support, as that is something the City is supposed to provide. What the City does not provide are funds for public IT needs, and the Foundation is behind that.

Vice President Hartigan mentioned that he was happy to see that the LEED certification is approaching its end of days. Chisaki said that a letter from Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) has gone out giving the Library renewable energy credits, and all questions posed by the U.S. Green Building Council have been responded to. It is hoped we will get silver certification, but if not we will appeal the decision.

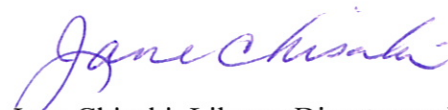
DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

President Belikove asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Vice President Hartigan so moved; Member Wetzork seconded the motion which carried by a 3-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Jane Chisaki, Library Director and  
Secretary to the Alameda Free Library Board